



November 23, 2021

Ms. Jennifer Wilcox  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management  
Department of Energy  
James V. Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,

Thank you for your recent letter, as well as the conversation which we had last Friday with you and your staff regarding the future of the National Coal Council (NCC). At this critical juncture in our Nation's economic, energy and environmental future we are of course disappointed that the Department of Energy (DOE) has chosen, at the last minute, to not renew the NCC's almost 40-year charter.

We would have wished to have been meaningfully involved in the deliberations regarding the renewal process. Over several decades, the NCC has established a long standing and well-deserved reputation for providing the Secretary of Energy with important independent advice and counsel.

The scope of this work has not only been on coal resource related policy and technical matters. It has also encompassed advice on the overall coal industry, its workers, its customers, its communities, and this resource's myriad current and future impacts on our nation's economy. We have of course recently focused on important new directions by which the carbon within coal can be productively and environmentally channeled to create new advanced carbon products and materials.

We appreciate your commitment that a new charter will be approved. We would also hope that moving forward we would be

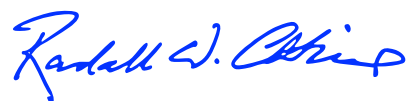
afforded the opportunity to have both an on-going dialogue as well as truly relevant involvement in its creation.

Your proposed revisions to the charter on first reflection cover a scope of societal, workforce and other matters. These new inclusions seem afield from the technical and policy industry related areas for which the NCC has traditionally provided expertise. Indeed, they would seem to overlap not only with many existing programs such as the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization, but with the responsibilities of other Executive Cabinet departments.

We would hope that the primary focus of the NCC would remain targeted to advising the Secretary on policy, technological and market related matters most germane to the coal and carbon industries. This is consistent with the Department of Energy's purpose in administering the Country's energy policy.

Lastly, let me say we appreciate the work which your office and the DOE does in guiding our nation's current and future energy direction and in particular the uses of our nation's most abundant natural resource.

Cordially yours,



Randall W. Atkins  
Chairman  
National Coal Council